

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. (US 5,995,177) in view of Song (US 6,038,002).

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. in view of Song and Yamazaki et al. (US 6,563,482).

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2 and 7 recite allowable subject matter, and for the indication that claims 9-13 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant amended claim 1 to include the allowable features of claim 2, added new claims 14 and 15, and canceled claim 2. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-15 are pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. (US 5,995,177) in view of Song (US 6,038,002), and claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. in view of Song and Yamazaki et al. (US 6,563,482). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

Without acquiescing to the Office Action's allegation that the combined teachings of Ono et al. and Song render Applicant's claimed invention obvious, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowed features of claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of combinations of Ono et al., Song, and Yamazaki et al. is now rendered moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 3-8 are now allowable.

New Claims 14 and 15

Applicant respectfully asserts that new claims 14 and 15 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as the individual features that new claims 14 and 15 recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments to claims 1, 10, and 21, reconsideration of the application as amended, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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